

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 14-1013V

Filed: June 16, 2015

Unpublished

CATHERINE SMITH,

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Petitioner,

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v.

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Attorney Fees and Costs; Stipulation

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

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Respondent.

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*Michael G. McLaren, Esq., Black McLaren Jones Ryland & Griffie, P.C., Memphis, TN
for petitioner.*

Julia W. McNerny, Esq., U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC for respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS¹

Vowell, Chief Special Master:

On October 20, 2014, Catherine Smith filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,² [the “Vaccine Act” or “Program”]. Petitioner alleged that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration [“SIRVA”] caused by the trivalent influenza vaccination she received on October 5, 2013. Petition at 1. On April 8, 2015, I issued a decision awarding compensation to petitioner based on respondent’s proffer.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioners have 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2006).

On June 16, 2015, the parties filed a Stipulation of Facts Regarding Final Attorneys' Fees and Costs. According to the stipulation, the parties agree upon an award of \$16,032.10 in attorneys' fees and costs. In accordance with General Order #9, petitioner's counsel represents that petitioner incurred no out-of-pocket expenses.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-15(e). I find the proposed amount to be reasonable.

Accordingly, I award the total \$16,032.10³ as a lump sum in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioner and petitioner's counsel Michael G. McLaren.

The clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Denise K. Vowell
Denise K. Vowell
Chief Special Master

³ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See *generally Beck v. Sec'y, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

⁴ Entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing of a notice renouncing the right to seek review. See Vaccine Rule 11(a).